

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS RANGOON 001435

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [OPDC](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT BUSH FROM THAN SHWE

REF: RANGOON 728

1. (U) On November 4, 2004 Embassy Rangoon received a diplomatic note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs transmitting a congratulatory letter (unsigned) from Senior General Than Shwe to President Bush on the occasion of the latter's re-election. Post will forward the original to EAP/BCLTV. The text of the note and letter is as follows:

Begin text of diplomatic note:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to transmit herewith for information of the embassy a copy of the congratulatory message from His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, to the honorable George W. Bush, on the occasion of his re-election for the second term as the President of the United States of America.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Dated November 4 2004

End text.

Begin text of letter from Senior General Than Shwe:

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States of America  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. President,

On behalf of the people of the Union of Myanmar as well as on my own, it gives me great pleasure in extending to you, Mr. President, our sincere congratulations on the occasion of your re-election for the second term of the President of the United States of America.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Senior General Than Shwe  
Chairman  
The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar

2. (SBU) Comment: The letter is an unusual gesture from the SPDC. We have not received friendly correspondence on any occasion in recent years. The November 6 edition of the New Light of Myanmar ran a front page notice about the letter to President Bush, stating "Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to U.S. President - Yangon, 5 Nov - Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the SPDC of the Union of Myanmar, sent a congratulatory message to the Honorable George W. Bush, on the occasion of his re-election as the President of the United States of America." The then-Deputy Foreign Minister's June 2004 visit to the chancery to sign the Reagan condolence book was the last GOB effort to reach out to the Embassy in any meaningful way (reftel). However, we don't believe that Than Shwe's letter portends a change in the regime's bilateral posture. Official media this week maintained robust coverage of the situation in Iraq with articles and commentary highly critical of U.S. military operations. End Comment.  
Martinez